angle, in the North-Eastern region and Jammu & Kashmir, BSNL has commenced the process for installation of Wireless in Local Loop equipment for providing Village Public Telephones.

Statement

Status of performance of BSNL etc. as on 31.1.2003 regarding number of VPTs provided

Name of the Company	Number of VPTs provided as on 31.1.2003
M/s Tata Teleservices	1314
M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.	3764
M/s Hughes Telecom Ltd.	1127
M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	721
M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	830
M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd.	348
M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)	504015

Merger of Hindustan Cables Ltd. and BSNL

1584.SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan for merger of Hindustan Cables Ltd. with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount HCL has to pay to BSNL as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of ^a) above.

(c) Rs. 280.07 crores (Rupees two hundred eighty crores seven lakhs only).